(c) the financial assistance sought by the State Government for relief and other works; and

(d) the funds released by the Central Government so far and to be released later?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The State had experienced floods/ heavy rains during the South-West Monsoon 2002 and reported damage to 36,409 houses, damage to 35,037 ha. of agriculture area, damage of Rs. 11.57 lakhs in the veterinary sector, damage to public properties worth Rs. 10.06 crore, damage of Rs. 37.33 crore to public utilities and two persons killed.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 5.20 crore was available with the State in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF); to which Central Government contributes 75% for immediate relief to the affected people. The Government of Manipur had also submitted a memorandum for financial assistance of Rs. 287.06 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for relief and rehabilitation. An Inter-Ministerial Team had visited affected areas of the State to assess the damage. The matter is under process.

Strength of BSF personnel in Tripura

2887. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of BSF requried and the strength existing in Tripura to cover 856 km. border with Bangladesh;

(b) the steps taken upto get the hide-outs of militants of Tripura in Bnagladesh demolished;

(c) the steps to expedite the construction of barbed wire fencing along the boundary between Tripura and Bangladesh; and

(d) the period by when at least one battalion of army will be sent to Tripura to contain terrorism effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) On 856 kms long stretch of border which Tripura shares with Bangladesh the deployment of BSF is equal to its authorization on the border.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh who have assured that they will not allow militants to use their territory for carrying on activities prejudicial to the interests of India. The Government of Bangladesh has assured full cooperation in the matter of deportation of Indian militants arrested by them.

(c) The barbed wire fencing along the boundary between Tripura and Bangladesh is planned to be completed in a phased manner by 2007. For timely completion of fencing and road construction work in Tripura High Level Empowered Committee has approved the modified designs and cost estimates thereof. The State Public Works Department (PWD) and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) have also been involved in execution of the project.

(d) Presently, there are no plans to induct additional Army troops for counter insurgency operations in Tripura, as the existing Army/Assam Rifles force levels involved in combating insurgency in the State is considered adequate. However, the situation is constantly being monitored and requisite steps, including increment of force levels, will be considered, should the circumstances necessitate.

Strength of BSF personnel in Tripura

2888. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of the international border between India and Bangladesh;

(b) the length of this border with the State of Tripura;

(c) the number of BSF battalions required for this length of border with the State of Tripura;

(d) the number of BSF battalions existing at present in Tripura; and

(e) the steps of the Central Government propose to take to remove inadequacy in the strength of BSF in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) India has 4096 kms of border with Bangladesh out of which 856 kms (approximately) falls in the State of Tripura.